

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method comprising:

transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;

transmitting audio with the access request, wherein the audio includes speech; and
terminating the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted and before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is denied.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio without receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted and before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is denied.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted during transmission of the audio.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the denial of the access request from an arbitration controller.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the audio to the broadcast link via wireless network equipment.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the denial of the access request from a wireless communication device in the system via a wireless base station.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the denial of the access request within a wireless communication device that presently has access to the broadcast link.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the access request in response to actuation of a push-to-talk input medium associated with a wireless communication device.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method comprising:

- receiving a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;

- receiving audio before transmission of an indication that the access request is granted and before transmission of an indication that the access request is denied, wherein the audio includes speech; and

- transmitting the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising discarding the audio in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein receiving audio includes receiving the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting the indication that the access request is granted after receiving the audio.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting the indication that the access request is denied after receiving the audio.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising interpreting at least a portion of the audio transmission as the access request.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising:
transmitting the access request to a wireless communication device in the system; and
receiving the indication that the access request is denied from the wireless communication device.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein transmitting the access request includes transmitting the access request to a wireless communication device that presently has access to the broadcast link.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A wireless communication device comprising:
a wireless transmitter; and
a processor that controls the transmitter to transmit a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system, transmit audio with the access request, and terminate the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied, wherein the audio includes speech.

Claim 21 (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted and before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is denied.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio without receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted and before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is denied.

Claim 24 (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.

Claim 25 (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein the transmitter transmits the audio to the broadcast link via wireless network equipment.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): An arbitration controller for a point-to-multipoint communication system, the arbitration controller comprising a processor that receives a request for access to a broadcast link from a wireless communication device in a point-to-multipoint communication system, wherein the processor receives audio from the wireless communication device before transmission of an indication that the access request is granted and before transmission of an indication that the access request is denied, the processor determining whether to grant the access request, and directing transmission of the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted, wherein the audio includes speech.

Claim 27 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor directs discarding of the audio in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 28 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor directs transmission of an indication that the access request is granted or denied.

Claim 29 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the transmitter transmits an indication that the access request is granted or denied.

Claim 30 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor interprets at least a portion of the audio transmission as the access request.

Claim 31 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor resides within a wireless communication device in the point-to-multipoint communication system.

Claim 32 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor resides within a network server in a wide area network associated with network equipment in the point-to-multipoint communication system.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium comprising ~~processorearrying computer~~-executable instructions that cause a processor in a wireless communication device in a point-to-multipoint communication system to:

transmit a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;

transmit audio with the access request, wherein the audio includes speech; and
terminate the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium comprising
processor~~carrying computer~~-executable instructions that cause a processor in network equipment in a point-to-multipoint communication system to:

- receive a request for access to a broadcast link in the point-to-multipoint communication system;

- receive audio before transmission of an indication that the access request is granted and before transmission of an indication that the access request is denied, wherein the audio includes speech; and

- direct transmission of the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A method comprising:

- transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system from a wireless communication device;

- receiving audio from a user of the wireless communication device;

- transmitting the audio from the wireless communication device before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted and before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is denied; and

- terminating the audio transmission if a denial of the access request is received, wherein the audio includes speech.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A method comprising:

- transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication network from a wireless communication device to network equipment;
- receiving audio from a user of the wireless communication device;
- transmitting the audio from the wireless communication device to the network equipment before the access request is granted and before the access request is denied; and
- terminating the audio transmission and discarding the transmitted audio if the access request is denied, wherein the audio includes speech.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A method comprising:

- transmitting an access request from a wireless communication device to network equipment, the access request including a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;
- receiving speech from a user of the wireless communication device;
- transmitting the speech from the wireless communication device to the network equipment before the wireless communication device receives an acknowledgement from the network equipment that the access request is granted and before the wireless communication device receives an acknowledgement from the network equipment that the access request is denied; and
- terminating the speech transmission from the wireless communication device to the network equipment in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A method comprising:

- transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;
- transmitting audio from a wireless communication device before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted and before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is denied, wherein the audio includes speech; and
- terminating the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.